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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 167505

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, GR

SUBJECT: COUNSELOR NIMETZ MEETING WITH GREEK AMBASSADOR

1. COUNSELOR NIMETZ INVITED GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS TO DEPARTMENT JUNE 30 FOR A DISCUSSION OF GREEK-NATO RELATIONSHIP. NIMET/ RECALLED THAT DURING JUNE 3 NEW YORK MEETING PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS HAD STRESSED TO SECRETARY VANCE THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHES TO THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE RETURN OF GREECE TO THE MILITARY WING OF NATO. FOLLOWING THAT CONVERSATION THE SECRETARY HAD PERSONALLY REQUESTED
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THAT THE DEPARTMENT GIVE ITS FULL ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER. NIMETZ SAID HE HAD TALKED LAST WEEK WITH GENERAL HAIG CONCERNING HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH GENERAL DAVOS.

2. NIMETZ SAID WE WERE PLEASED THAT THE HAIG-DAVOS MILI-TARY-TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS HAD ENDED IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH SATISFIED THE MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE

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PROBLEM, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT YLT HAD ACCESS TO GENERAL HAIG'S ASSESSMENT. HAIG HAS FORWARDED HIS RECOMMENDATIONS TO BRUSSELS. THE REVIEW AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL IN BRUSSELS OF COURSE STILL LIES AHEAD.

3. NIMETZ TOLD ALEXANDRAKIS THAT WE INTEND TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH GOT IN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS AND TO TELL THEM

OF OUR BELIEF THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS WORKED OUT BY HAIG AND DAVOS ARE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE ALLIANCE. WE WILL EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THE TURKS WILL TAKE A CLOSE AND SYMPATHETIC LOOK AT THESE ARRANGEMENTS. NIMETZ NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY HAS ALREADY MADE THESE POINTS IN ATHENS. NIMETZ SAID HE WOULD BE SEEING TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL LATER IN THE DAY TO MAKE THE SAME GENERAL POINTS WHICH AMBASSADOR SPIERS WILL ALSO BE MAKING IN ANKARA.

4. ALEXANDRAKIS STATED THAT THE PROCESS OF PAVING THE WAY FOR GREEK RETURN TO NATO AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL COULD WELL PROVE TO BE DIFFICULT. HE ANTICIPATED THAT THE TURKS WOULD CONTINUE TO INSIST ON CERTAIN CONDITIONS WHICH WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE GREEK SIDE. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT IT WAS CLEAR TURKEY LINKED THE GREEK RETURN IN NATO TO THE LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO. HE NOTED THAT GENERAL HAIG HAD SAID ON JUNE 28 THAT EVEN IF THE EMBARGO WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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LIFTED THE TURKS MIGHT CREATE TROUBLE FOR THE GREEKS IN NATO. NIMETZ REMINDED THE AMBASSADOR THAT GREECE TOO HAD LINKED ITS RETURN TO NATO TO A NON-NATO RELATED ISSUE -- NAMELY CYPRUS. THE UNITED STATES HOPED THAT THE DISCUSSIONS IN NATO COULD PROCEED TOTALLY FREE OF LINKAGE. ALEXANDRAKIS STATED THAT IT WAS CLEAR THE GREEK GOVERNMENT BY ITS ACTIONS NO LONGER LINKED THE RETURN TO NATO TO A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT EVEN THOUGH IT COULD NOT SAY SO PUBLICLY. NIMETZ SAID IT WAS TOTALLY CLEAR THAT PROGRESS WOULD BE EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT IF THE EMBARGO WERE NOT LIFTED. IN THE ABSENCE OF AN EMBARGO IT WILL BE MUCH EASIER TO ARRANGE A NATO SOLUTION SATISFACTORY TO GREECE. IT DID SEEM TO US THAT NATO WAS NOT THE PROPER PLACE TO RESOLVE ALL GREEK-TURKISH AEGEAN ISSUES.

5. TURNING TO THE MEETING OF THE GREEK AND TURKISH SECRETARIES GENERAL SCHEDULED FOR JULY 4 AND 5, NIMETZ SAID IT WAS THE HOPE OF THE UNITED STATES THAT THE MEETINGS WOULD BE POSITIVE AND THAT THEY WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROCESS OF WORKING OUT THE DIFFICULT GREEK-TURKISH PROBLEMS. THE AMBASSADOR SEEMED DUBIOUS THAT MUCH PROGRESS WOULD BE MADE AT THE ELEKDAG-THEODOROPOLOUS TALKS

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IN ANKARA BUT STATED THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WOULD, AS IN THE PAST, ENDEAVOR TO MAKE HEADWAY IN THE TALKS. HE INDICATED THAT NOTHING SHOULD BE READ INTO THE FACT THAT AMBASSADOR TZOUNIS WOULD NOT BE PARTICIPATING IN THE TALKS.

6. THE AMBASSADOR COMPLAINED THAT THE GREEK EMBASSY WAS STILL HEARING OF INSTANCES WHERE ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMEN

WERE INDICATING THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WAS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. AS AN EXAMPLE, A CONGRESSMAN FROM FLORIDA HAD TOLD HIM THAT A MEMBER OF HE ADMINISTRATION HAD TOLD THE CONGRESSMAN THERE WOULD BE NO TROUBLE IN GREECE AS A RESULT OF THE LIFTING
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OF THE EMBARGO. NIMETZ INDICATED WE HAD BEEN VERY CAREFUL PUBLICLY IN THIS REGARD, ESPECIALLY SINCE KARAMANLIS EXPRESSED HIS CONCERNS IN THIS AREA TO THE SECRETARY IN NEW YORK. HOWEVER, WHEN SUPPORTERS OF THE EMBARGO INDICATE THAT ITS LIFTING WOULD RESULT IN DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES TO US-GREEK RELATIONS AND THE KARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT, WE WERE FORCED INTO A POSITION OF GIVING OUR CANDID ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION -- ONE WHICH DOES NOT SHARE THE DIRE OUTLOOK BEING SPREAD BY EMBARGO SUPPORTERS.

7. AMBASSADOR REFERRED BRIEFLY TO GREEK PRESS ATTENTION TO CERTAIN REMARKS ON JUNE 28 BY SECRETAR' BROWN BEFORE THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE. BASED ON THE NOTES OF A GREEK EMBASSY OFFICIAL WHO HAD BEEN AT THE HEARING, THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD TELEPHONED THE MFA TO MAKE CLEAR HIS JUDGMENT THAT THE REMARKS HAD BEEN DISTORTED BY THE PRESS AND THAT SECRETARY BROWN'S REMARKS COULD IN NO WAY BE CONSTRUED AS INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL GREEK MATTERS. NIMETZ ADVISED THE AMBASSADOR THAT WE WERE IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING A PRESS STATEMENT ON THIS MATTER WHICH WE HOPED TO MAKE AVAILABLE LATER JUNE 30. HE INDICATED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE AMBASSADOR'S ATTEMPTS TO PUT THIS INCIDENT IN A PROPER LIGHT. VANCE

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